

**Boston Climate Action Plan Update Process
Joint Leadership Committee/Community Advisory Committee
Meeting
Tuesday March 23, 2010 - 9:00 am -1:00 pm
Old South Church, Boston**

Summary Highlights

- Introductions: From the co-chairs: we are moving from the end of the planning process to the beginning of program implementation. A lot of hard work has been done and a lot of hard work remains...and Boston needs all hands on deck (i.e. the City government, residents, businesses, everyone else).
- Mitigation measures: The mitigation measures were adjusted since the last LC meeting based on feedback and conversations with the state. We added a suite of behavioral change measures and adjusted the building code and stretch code assumptions. If all the recommendations are implemented, consultants estimate we could meet a 25% reduction by 2020 target. Consultants also estimated the net savings (energy savings minus costs) at over \$2 billion between 2010 and 2020. In general the LC and CAC are happy with the target and net savings estimates. However, they want to see more detail on how the savings were estimated and what the actual upfront costs are. Also, the total savings are across the entire city, but certain people/businesses will likely bear more of the costs and receive more of the benefits, and the report should note this.
- Community workshops: Workshop attendees were, on average, slightly older than the Boston median age and wealthier than the Boston median income level. In general there was relatively more negative feedback around measures that impose additional costs on residents, e.g. PAYT and residential parking permit fees. The LC and CAC feel that those measures may need to be framed differently and the benefits need to be better explained. There is an educational component (knowledge and understanding will ease resident comfort) and a framing component (e.g. "you actually already pay \$x for trash pickup, and PAYT will be cheaper"). People are very sensitive to costs and expressed particular concern about the economic impact on low income residents. So measures with visible costs need to be considered carefully. Workshop attendees were generally supportive of the elements of the community engagement strategy. In addition to adding details to the strategy elements, they pointed out that community engagement should also include enabling

access for individuals and small businesses to the economic benefits of climate action.

- List of mitigation measures: LC reached a consensus that all measures should be kept on the list (we need all of them to get to 25% by 2020), but the recommendation report needs to stress that actual program design will need to pay “particular attention to racial, cultural, and economic equity in the distribution of costs and benefits of these programs, including access to and quality of the jobs and training programs created.” The LC also wants more clarity on how the net benefits were derived, and the costs and benefits of each program if feasible, They would also like the report to at least reference regional GHG reductions and non-GHG benefits associated with Boston mitigation measures (e.g. health/environmental justice impacts, regional transportation emissions reductions, smaller GHG footprint for city dwellers, etc).
- Implementation: LC is generally happy with the draft implementation guidelines, but the guidelines need to emphasize tying the measures to City resources and also clarify that implementation is not just the responsibility of the City government. Successful implementation of Boston’s Climate Action Plan will require the efforts of everyone in the city, and the LC report and implementation section should be explicit about calling people to specific actions.
- Draft report chapters: Again, the LC’s feedback was generally supportive, noting the need for more detail on costs and benefits and methodology for net savings estimates in order to convince the business community that these are sound, cost effective ideas. The chapters also need to be more of a call to action to specific groups. The executive summary in particular should frame this process in the context of a larger narrative about related policies and national/ international efforts for sustainability and human and environmental health. The report should also be more explicit about the cost (financial/wellbeing/etc.) of doing nothing.
- Regarding Timing/Opportunity: Some members of the LC feel that Mayor Menino currently has a lot of political capital he can spend. So now is the time to move aggressively to put in place some of the more complicated or controversial measures that are important components of the plan. Beyond the Mayor, Boston currently has the key governmental officials it needs to accomplish the plan recommendations, and it is important to take advantage of that.

Next Steps and To Do List

- 1) Review current chapters by Friday, March 26th (Email detailed language edits to Carl, Jonathan, Cynthia)

- Exec Summary and Implementation everyone should read this closely—comments by Friday (on-line or send in if you like)
 - Mitigation—Stephanie (transportation), Brian (buildings)
 - Adaptation—Bud, Judy
 - Economic benefits and green jobs—Kalila, Galicia
 - Community engagement—Viki
- 2) Provide full final draft to LC by mid day on 4/6 (Carl and consultant team)
- 3) LC Meeting Summary and Agenda for Final April 8 LC (consultants)